

## FOILED THE WOODPECKERS.

Ingenious Scheme to Save the Poles and Its Peculiar Result.

"Speaking of modern ingenuity," remarked Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs (Room) the other day, "calls to mind the happy idea of Superintendent Joseph B. Donner, now located with the Southern Pacific company at San Francisco, Cal., when he was on this end. You may remember his experience in painting the telegraph poles of the Arizona desert with asphalt and from the sand sticking to them gradually simulating a woodpecker. Well, what I am about to relate explained this proceeding both as to efficacy and conception. In western Texas, west of Spofford Junction and for many miles, it was almost impossible to make a telegraph pole last more than six months, owing to the many woodpeckers in that section. The birds constantly attacked the posts and actually perforated the wood in divers places until the poles bore the appearance of having been well bored, soon becoming useless. Realizing that something must be done, Mr. Donner put on his thinking cap, and at the end of a week he had solved the problem.

"A month later he journeyed to Spofford Junction, and attached to the train was a carload of hollow iron poles, each painted to resemble ordinary rough red cedar. These he set up at intervals of five miles, covering the territory affected by the woodpeckers. A skilled eye could not determine the difference between the iron poles and the wooden ones. Concealed within the top of each of the metal poles Mr. Donner attached a very small 'buzzing' motor, to those used in the call bells, and these he attached to the telegraph wires, they keeping up a constant humming. Here is where the woodpeckers were fooled. They imagined the 'buzzers' were insects in the poles, and then began a desperate sort of the birds upon the metal. They flocked to the anticipated harvest by scores, and the foolish things never realized their error until the bill of each was worn down to a frazzle. A month's time found every woodpecker in the state in this awkward predicament, and being unable to penetrate the iron they gave up and went to eating gravel. The poles of wood were saved.

"A peculiar result was that the progeny of the mutilated birds showed bills with out points, and consequently those latter are unable to do any damage. Every woodpecker along the line now wears his bill as rounded as a baseball, and we experience no more trouble. Mr. Donner was thinking of patenting the idea, but did not, however, preferring that other lines should have the benefit of his ingenuity free."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

## TELEPHONE WIRE.

In Each Apparatus There Is Over Half a Mile of It.

"When you say 'Hello' to 'central' did you know that you talk over 2,900 feet, or one half mile, of copper wire before the sound of your voice is transmitted from the telephone box?" asked the superintendent of the Missouri and Kansas Telephone company of a reporter for The Times recently. It is a fact that in each telephone there is 2,900 feet of fine wire. You see, the phone is composed of three parts.

"First the ringing apparatus, then the transmitter and last the ear trumpet or receiver. In the first are two small coils about the size of a No. 40 spool of thread immediately behind the lips, each containing 500 feet of wire, and in the magnet or ringing machine is another coil, containing 2,900 feet.

"In the telephone exchange we have 3,900 instruments. With 2,900 feet in each line wire would make 9,570,000 feet of the city alone. Figuring 6 inches to the mile, it would make slightly over 181 miles of wire as fine as a thread.

"This wire is insulated or shielded with two thicknesses of extremely fine silk thread and is an item of considerable expense, as the coils or coils are easily burned out. If a wire happens to be cut, it is replaced by a new one. The wire contained in coils back of the switch board at 'central' which makes 300 miles or enough to reach from here to St. Louis, with a good many miles to spare."—Kansas City Times.

## The Causes of Cancer.

There are few diseases that afflict the human family that are more to be dreaded than those of a cancerous nature. The cancer proper is a most appalling foe to life. Whether it can be cured is and always has been a debatable question. Cases are cited where alleged marvelous cures have been effected, but this does not do any appreciable extent along the facts in the case that the cancer is practically incurable once it gets any sort of headway in the system. The causes of this disease have been so imperfectly understood that any effort at prevention was worse than useless. A French scientist claims to have discovered cancer germs in wood and that artists who work in wood are much more subject to this disease, all things considered, than those who handle most other materials. Having once started on this line of research, he found cancer germs in wood and vegetation of various kinds. Elm and willow trees showed a greater proportion of these germs than other woods. In high altitudes or where trees are not common very few cancer germs were found. From all of which it appears that we may be at last on the highroad to some reliable and conclusive knowledge upon a subject which has baffled the skill of medical scientists for many years.—New York Ledger.

## Not Without Guile.

They used to say of Senator Perkins of California that he subtly flattered those whom he desired to count among his constituents by asking each man of them, in a single, what time it was by his watch and setting his own time by the answer. It was an exceedingly good way of advancing his own cause, but a young physician here in town unflinchingly confessed to a piece of diplomatic duplicity just as clever and just as successful. Whenever practice lags, he buys a number of clinical thermometers and presents them to all mothers of young children he knows. Of course as soon as a mother begins to take the temperatures of her children she is bound to discover fluctuations never dreamed of before, and as not one woman in 20 can read a clinical thermometer correctly or tell what it means when she has read it—well, you can see for yourself that that crafty medicine man is going to be sent for. The idea is a good one, but personally I think any man who trades on the anxiety of a mother for her babies is a scoundrel without guile.—Washington Post.

## CURIOUS WEAPONS.

Primitive Articles of Offense and Defense Used by the Philippine Islanders. In the University of Pennsylvania are curios which are closely allied with the earlier periods of the Philippine islands. They consist of a number of specimens of primitive weapons and are the only examples of the kind in the country. The collection, meager as it is, has already attracted considerable attention, and the many visitors attest to the deep interest the people feel in all that pertains to the new territory.

The curios are five in number and were obtained at the residence of a friend at Madrid and deposited in the university.

From the saw of the swordfish.

## SIoux PARTY CALLS.

Indiana Daily Visitor to the Studio—Entertained at 700.

The Indians have made their party calls. That is, after the studio tea, to which the party of nine Sioux gentlemen was invited by Mrs. Gertrude Kasebier the other day, to have their pictures taken. In fact, they have made a great many calls, and the tea was the beginning of a round of festivities of a mild nature.

It seems that with Sioux gentlemen an invitation, or even a call without an invitation, is considered the equivalent to a declaration of friendship for life, and they do not neglect any of the amenities.

"If you have had those Indians there once, they will spend the greater part of their time with you while they are around this part of the country," some one said to Mrs. Kasebier immediately after the studio tea.

"Well, let them come," she answered, "I shall be glad to see them."

And they do come, and they are always cordially received. Callers of this kind might not be so agreeable in a private house, but in a studio it is somewhat different, and Mrs. Kasebier and the young women artists who share the studio with her gaze at their guests with a feeling of deep artistic appreciation.

But the gentlemen are by no means bores. Their calls are comparatively short. After staying about half an hour, the one who for the time being condescends to speak English inquires about the time. The hostesses then know that their callers are about to leave, and shortly after they depart with polite good-byes.

The pictures taken were a great success. They were works of art, and, more than that, the Sioux gentlemen, who cannot be expected to have an aesthetic appreciation, saw likenesses with which they were well pleased. They were so delighted that one of them, coming again, insisted in asking one of the young women artists to have her picture taken with him. And she did, with a cup of tea in her hands and Mr. What-Ever-His-Name-Happened-to-Be smiling at her in quite a civilized fashion. He insisted in waiting for a picture, and remarked, in courteous Indian English:

"But that was one request that was not granted. Although the picture was a great success and a delight to the studios and their confreres, showing delightful artistic qualities, even a picturesque Sioux gentleman cannot have everything he wishes, and Mr. What-Ever-His-Name-Happened-to-Be did not even see it.

There was only one of the gentlemen guests at the studio tea who was not pleased with the pictures. He was one of the older gentlemen. It all goes to show that it is not the very youthful people or the women who are vain. The objector was Mr. Iron Tail. Mr. Iron Tail, a man of about 50, was a very old-fashioned looking fellow, with a picture taken, simply, without the addition of a feather headdress, was like a study in bronze.

But Iron Tail said it was too black and he tore it up. Now he is having a picture taken to look white, but natural conditions will prevent his appearing too much like a paleface.—N. Y. Sun.

## Manhood Restored



DR. E. C. WEST'S NERVE AND BRAIN TREATMENT

Is sold under positive written guarantee by authorized agents only, to cure Weak Memory, Dizziness, Wakefulness, Fits, Hysteria, Quickness, Night Sweats, Loss of Power, Lack of Confidence, Nervousness, Lassitude, all Drains, Youthful Errors, or Excessive Use of Tobacco, Opium, or Liquor, which leads to Migraine, Consumption, Insanity and Death. At once or by mail, \$1 a cure or \$5 with written guarantee to cure or refund money. Sample pack, containing five days' treatment, with full instructions, 25 cents. One sample only sold to each person. At once or by mail.

Red Label Special Extra Strength. For Impotency, Loss of Power, Lost Manhood, Sterility, or Impotence. A box, six for \$5, with written guarantee to cure in 30 days. At once or by mail.

KLOR'S DRUG STORES, Newport News, Va.

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MME. LE CLAIR'S FAMOUS FRENCH REMEDY

Never Fails. ENDORSED BY THOUSANDS

Of ladies as a periodical regulator without an equal, successful when Catarrh, Pains, Menstrual Disorders, and all kinds of irregularities of the female system, and contains the most complete of their wonderful properties. Send 4 cents in stamps for pamphlet, containing valuable information for ladies. Address LA CLAIR PILLS CO., U. S. Agents, Boston, Mass. All correspondence confidential and returned with trial package.

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## Wines, Liquors, Cigars.

FINEST EXPORT BEER MADE. Comfortable Pool and Billiard Parlors Adjoining Cafe.

## R. J. MACKAY.

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New Stock, New Prices Pianos & Organs

Standard Makes. Designs Unsurpassed, Tones Unequalled,

Action Superb Call & Examine When Passing The Hume, Minor Co.

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Our semi-annual Clearance Sale of

## MEN'S SUITS and TROUSERS

At prices that would surprise the makers! We endeavor to close out every suit each season so we will be enabled to sell you an entire new one the next. Note the genuine cut in prices for Reliable Clothing:

\$14.38 for suits that were \$18.00.

\$11.98 for suits that were \$15.00.

\$9.98 for suits that were \$12.50.

\$7.98 for suits that were \$10.00.

\$6.78 for suits that were \$8.50.

\$5.98 for suits that were \$7.50.

These low prices will prevail throughout the entire season till the stock is closed out.

Special sale in Ladies' and Children's Shoes.

Bargain day here is every day in the week.

No goods will be charged at sale prices.



The Reliable Clothier, Shoer and Hatter.

## NEW NATIONAL BUILDING.

Hot Time in the Old Town

Is one way of expressing a sense of merriment, but the hot time some house keepers have in sweltering over hot ranges with unsatisfactory fires, with wood, coal, ashes, dirt and annoyance, is it any wonder they look weary and broken down?

With a modern gas range all this trouble disappears. The range will cook anything—it will do it quickly, it will do its work better and more satisfactorily than any coal range ever made. It will heat water for the bath or any purpose, and what is more the gas range is the most economical cooker on the market. Gas at \$1.00 per thousand feet is ten cents a hundred. An average family can cook three meals daily with less than 100 feet of gas. Ask those using gas and you will see. Those who have just found out the benefits are most enthusiastic. We have known it so long we wonder why every body doesn't see it as we do, but they will soon see it. We are selling ranges every day, and every range set brings along another sounder of its praises. Call and see us.

A. B. WILKIN, 217 Twenty-seventh street, near Washington Avenue.

There are many people in Newport News who can't get bread to suit their taste because they don't know that we make the purest and most delicious bread stuffs in Newport News. We also make the richest and finest pastries, fancy cakes, wedding cakes, loaf cakes and macaroons to be found anywhere. We cater to the most fastidious palate and never fail to please our patrons.

THE MAN WHO PUTS OUT FIRES

Is duly appreciated, but he can't reimburse you for any loss of property sustained.

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For a few dollars per hundred you can insure your property against loss by fire, lightning, tornado and be relieved of all anxiety for the future. Surely this is to your interest. Have you a policy on your life? The earlier you obtain one the less it will cost. The Equitable Life of the United States writes the best contract on earth.

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To clear our stock is our desire—from store-opening until store-closing we shall let bargains fly often and quickly. The clearance of our stock is our first thought; the price second.

Silk Offerings. China Silk, new and handsome shades. Clearing Price, per yard, 39c

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DRESS GOODS Black Silk and Wool Henrietta, 56 inches wide, worth \$1.25. Clearing Price, per yard, 85c

50c. quality Black Mohair, Clearing Price, per yard, 39c

50c. Black Figured Mohair, Clearing Price, per yard, 39c

All our 50c. Figured Dress Goods, Plaids and Brocades, Clearing Price, per yard, 39c

All our 25c. Dress Goods, Clearing Price, per yard, 9c

All our 15c. Dress Goods, Clearing Price, per yard, 9c

Dry Goods Bargains. 5c. Dress Gingham, Clearing Price, per yard, 5c

10 and 12 1-2c. Dress Gingham, Clearing Price, per yard, 7c

Fancy and Plaid Calicoes, 5c. value. Clearing Price, per yard, 4c

Light Calicoes, Clearing Price, per yard, 3c

Yard wide Percales, Clearing Price, per yard, 53c

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Solid color Lawns—Pink, Blue, Lavender and Black—Clearing Price, per yard, 8c

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CHARLES H. HEWINS, Manager, Buck Roe Beach Hotel, Hampton, Va.

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the Spaniard Wants.

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In consideration of the above fact we have cut deep into our former prices, "which has always been considerable less than all our competitors," as we do not believe in letting our stock accumulate from one season to another, and have our shelves filled up with odds and ends, so we take this method to dispose of it at once. Stock must be disposed of within the next THIRTY DAYS, prior to taking inventory.

We do not guarantee to give duplicates at these prices, so to do justice to yourself call at once. LOT NO. 1. Men's Satin Calf, Solid Leather Shoes, in Lace or Congress, all style toes, regular value \$1.50; clearing price 85c.

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